

REMARKS

Claims 18-20, 23-26, 28, 31, 32, 34 and 35 which were pending in the parent application have been canceled herein, without prejudice or disclaimer.

The Examiner had cited *Bellinger*, *Dudley*, and *Reed* as being pertinent. It is submitted that none of these references suggest nor disclose an automatic mobile machine which can pick up and store objects and is programmed to return to a station and to unload objects at the station.

As the Examiner states, *Bellinger* does not disclose a device to pick up and store objects. Although *Dudley* disclosed a device to pick up nuts, neither of these references, or any others cited, individually, or combined, are programmed to return to a station and also are capable of unloading the collected objects at the station.

Further, the references do not suggest nor disclose a station having ramps loading to a platform with a recovery bowl for the objects disposed under the platform and a computer controlled door to empty the container in the mobile machine. The station with at least one fixed rail to contact brushes on the mobile machine is not suggested or disclosed by the cited references.

None of the cited references disclose a mobile machine with the claimed structure. Even if the cited references were combined the resulting device would not have the spaced-apart discs to collect the objects, a collector in the machine to store the objects, a raised platform station to automatically unload the collector and recharge the power source and programming to return the machine to a station.

For the above reasons, allowance of claims 36-46 is respectfully requested.

Further, it is submitted that the cited references, individually, or combined in any manner, do not disclose a method of collecting and storing golf balls which is automatic, in which the machine is programmed to return to a station where the golf balls are automatically unloaded and the device is recharged. The references cited by the Examiner are for agricultural products not golf balls. It is submitted

that persons collecting golf balls would not be motivated to consider devices for collecting nuts or cutting grass. The device of *Reed* is programmed to return to the station after a predetermined time interval, not because the container is full or the power is low as programmed in the present application.

Accordingly allowance of method claims 47 and 48 are respectfully requested.

It appears that all matters have been addressed satisfactorily, and that the case is now in condition for a complete allowance; and the same is respectfully urged.

However, if the Examiner has any comments or questions, or has any suggestions as per MPEP 707.07 (d) and (j), for putting the case in condition for final allowance, he is respectfully urged to contact the undersigned attorney-of-record at the telephone number below, so that an expeditious resolution may be effected and the case passed to issue promptly.

Respectfully submitted,

Feb 19, 2004
Date

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